

San Juan National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan

Administrative Change 5

Administrative changes, as defined at 36 CFR 219.13(c), are not plan amendments or revisions, do not require the preparation of a document under Forest Service National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures, and may be made at any time following public notice (219.16(c)(6)). Administrative changes include the following:

- Corrections of clerical errors;
- Changes to ensure conformance with new statutory or regulatory requirements; and
- Changes to other content in the plan (219.7(f)).

Administrative Change 5

The following error in the 2013 San Juan National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) is being corrected through this administrative change:

Description: On page 144, Guideline 2.18.29 lists several areas that are identified as avoidance areas for rights-of way, communications sites, and other land use authorizations. Among the areas listed are areas with moderate through very high SIO (scenic integrity objectives).

The accompanying Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) did not consider areas with moderate SIO as avoidance areas in any alternatives. Page 478 of the FEIS for the Forest Plan provides an exhaustive list of the areas that are included within avoidance areas, and makes no mention of areas with moderate SIO: “Avoidance areas in each alternative encompass ... high SIO areas.” On page 479 of the FEIS, another list is provided of areas that are not included within avoidance areas, and specifically mentions areas with moderate SIO: “Designating areas as VRM Class II or high SIO would result in restrictions on any required land use authorizations to comply with the objectives for the respective management class, along with any stipulations that might be imposed due to these areas being included within avoidance area allocations. While avoidance areas would not apply to VRM Class III or IV, or moderate, low, or very low SIO, land uses would still need to comply with the applicable scenery objectives/visual management classes.”

Based on the analysis done in the FEIS, it is clear that a clerical error was made when Guideline 2.18.29 was written. It is also important to note that areas with moderate to very high SIO cover 94% of the San Juan National Forest; thus, as Guideline 2.18.29 is currently written, over 94% of the Forest is within an avoidance area. From a multiple use and feasibility perspective, this was clearly not the intent.

Change: On page 144, Guideline 2.18.29, strike “moderate” and replace with “high.”

Revised pages to the Forest Plan are attached below.

- 2.18.29 The following areas are identified as avoidance areas for ROW, communications sites, and other land use authorizations: all areas having VRM Class I or II, or high through very high SIO, lands managed for wilderness characteristics, Dolores River Canyon, Mesa Verde Escarpment, Perins Peak Wildlife Management Area, Chimney Rock National Monument, Falls Creek Archeological Area, Anasazi Archeological Area, and special botanical areas.
- 2.18.30 The following areas are identified as exclusion areas for ROWs, communications sites, and other land use authorizations: wilderness areas, WSAs, RNAs, wild segments of eligible WSR, and MA1.
- 2.18.31 Energy transmission facilities should be consolidated within existing corridors and along existing linear energy transmission facilities in order to reduce habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation resulting from new construction.
- 2.18.32 Communication sites should be designed to minimize the visual appearance of structures. Communication antennas should use non-reflective surfaces or be painted, where possible, to minimize visual impacts.

Additional Guidance

- FSM 1920, 2700, 2760, 5400, 5500, 5590
- FSH 2509.25, 2709, 5409
- BLM Manuals and Handbooks 2100, 2200, 2740, 2800, 2880, and 2900
- 43 CFR 2000